

July 28, 1988

TO: File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Reclamation Hydrologist *DWH*

RE: Field Inspection, U. S. Steel Corporation, Desert Mound Mine, M/021/003, Iron County, Utah

Holland Shepherd and I visited the Desert Mound mine site on July 7, 1988 to verify the extent and success of reclamation work that had been performed by U. S. Steel Corporation. Mr. Roy Benson, now with Geneva Steel stated that he was no longer responsible for the site and suggested that we contact Mr. Thon Gin, of U. S. Steel for specifics regarding this site.

The main mine site facilities have been dismantled and removed. Areas adjacent to the pits have been regraded and reseeded. Revegetation success is highly variable over the mine site. Some areas show good vegetative cover while other areas remain barren. The old plant site area which has not been retopsoiled, has residual black fines (magnetite) on the surface, and exhibits the poorest revegetation success. No measurable vegetative success of the reclamation seeding was evident. This area only has some russian thistle, koshia, and halogeton growing.

We were informed by DOGM staff member, Frank Filas, that during last years field inspection, Frank Jensen, of the Division, requested that the operator perform some additional reseedling on the areas showing poor success. A letter from USX, dated September 2, 1987, indicates that several species of plants were broadcast onto portions of the site that summer. We could not visually confirm that this work had been performed.

No soil admendments were added to the site. Also, since reseedling was done during the summer months the germination success would almost certainly have been limited.

It is our opinion that the operator may need to reseed the area using soil admendments to supplement the very poor soil conditions existing on this site. Alternatively an option might be to perform reclamation on some of the adjacent "grandfathered" areas which may prove more favorable to revegetation efforts. The Division will likely require the operator to wait another year to re-evaluate the vegetative cover. Release of the operator's reclamation obligation will be suspended until that time.

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Field Inspection, U.S. Steel Corp,
Desert Mound Mine, M/021/003

A tentative, onsite, visit has been scheduled with U.S.X.
personnel for September 14, 1988 to work out the final reclamation
requirements for this mine site.

dwh/jb

cc: L. Braxton

H. Shepherd

Thon Gin, U. S. Steel

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